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JUNE
2011

The Black Mirror News

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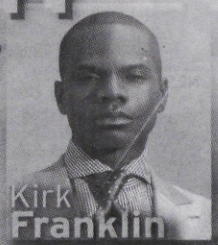
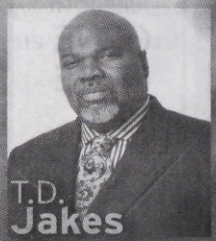
PRESENTS

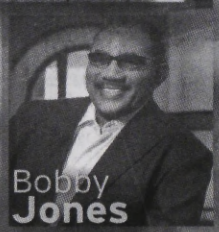
THE MIGHTY MEN OF VALOUR

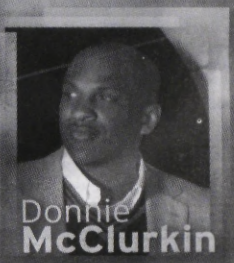
Saturday, June 18th
Fathers Day Weekend

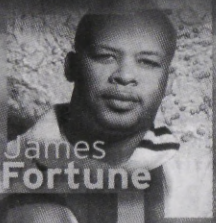
Prudential Center

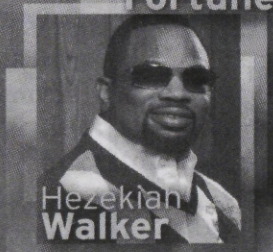

Kirk Franklin


T.D. Jakes


Bobby Jones


Donnie McClurkin


James Fortune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TO LOVE MY PEOPLE SHOULDN'T IMPLY I HATE OTHERS...
(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

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POLLY TICKS...
TICKS... TICKS... TICKS...

AROUND THE TOWNS...

A STRATEGY TO TRANSFORM ORANGE
by Mayor, Eldridge Hawkins, Jr.

To all taxpayers and concerned citizens. We will make to mail you informative newsletters regularly and send our e-mails more often to keep you up-to-date, on what is going on in Orange. You can help to keep yourself informed by visiting our website at www.ci.orange.nj.us and signing up for Orange updates.

IRVINGTON, NEW JERSEY

MAYOR, WAYNE SMITH utilizing the Irvington Township Recreation recently awarded grate in the amount of $99,248.47, from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund. The grant supports renovation of the Irvington Little League facilities and overall league expansion, funding for 120 new uniforms, a batting cage, a pitching machine, and various other important maintenance and equipment items.

CITY OF EAST ORANGE

Mayor, Robert Bowser, along with the Newark Bears will host EAST ORANGE NIGHT, June 23, 2011 @ 6:35 pm.

It'll be Family, Fun, & Fundraising to benefit the East Orange Recreation Youth. Tickets can be purchased in advance @ Recreation Headquarters, 1 Fellowship Circle (Greenwood Ave.), 973-414-4150. Tickets, $10.00

NEWARK, NJ

The City of Newark was the setting for Peace Summit event because it has faced many of the problems found in other cities. The City of Newark, is a city on the rise, an inspiration for the Summit and for other communities.

(See, page 10.)

In 1997 Tibet House US produced a Peacemaking Conference in San Francisco. The conference was seminal in opening up the conversation publicly to practical applications of non-violent activism. These ideas were directed at communities where violence threatened a way of life in the Bay Area. After learning about the 1997 conference, Infinite Possibilities Foundation's founder and President Mr. Drew Katz recognized the value of .H. the Dalai Lama and the work of Tibet House US. His goal is to replicate this model for the benefit of Newark and by extension all communities impeded by violence. This Summit presented productive solutions to the problems we "solutions" that are all too often tried and fail at great expense to all parties.

REALTY TV: Are they for real?

ARE WE LIKE THOSE PEOPLE ON TV.
IS THERE A TROUBLE MAKER IN EVERY GROUP?

BRAVO IN TALKS TO DO SPIN-OFF SHOWS FOR KIM ZOLCIAK AND NENE LEAKES

BY RODNEY HO - REPRINT

Bravo is in talks with Kim Zolciak and NeNe Leakes to do spin-off shows, according to two sources who are familiar with the negotiations but not authorized to talk about them.

Kim's show would be about her life with Atlanta Falcons defensive end Kroy Biermann and her new baby, due soon.

NeNe's show would be about her efforts to break into Hollywood after moving to Los Angeles later this year.

CREDIT: Bravo/Wilford Harewood

But if these two shows are to come to fruition, Bravo would also like to keep at least one on the "Real Housewives" show. Kim and NeNe are arguably the most prominent stars on the cast after three seasons.

The problem: their last blow-up season three makes it clear the two no longer trust each other, much less like each other. This dynamic must be creating challenges for Bravo producers shooting season four since they want to maximize interaction among the six cast members while Kim and NeNe probably want to spent as little time face to face as possible.

Production for season four of "Real Housewives of Atlanta" started earlier this month, including a baby shower for Kim.

At least one new cast member is being considered, just in case Kim and/or NeNe leave the show for good. Bethenny Frankel of "Real Housewives of New York" fame left that show and was able to parlay her fame and brand into her own Bravo show "Bethenny Ever After."

There are signs Bravo has reached a "Housewives" saturation point with seven renditions so far: Orange County, Beverly Hills, New York, New Jersey, Miami, Atlanta and D.C. Bravo's boss Andy Cohen has said no more new "Housewives' franchises for now but he has not precluded spin offs. Recently, "The Real Housewives of D.C.' became the first franchise to be canceled. "Miami" recently debuted but did only moderately well.

Right now, Atlanta is the most popular of them all, averaging close to four million viewers per week per new episode.

NeNe is currently riding on a wave of publicity due to her stint on NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice." Her big blow-up with Star Jones has been featured heavily in promotions.

She is also did commentary with Perez Hilton for WE-TV on the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

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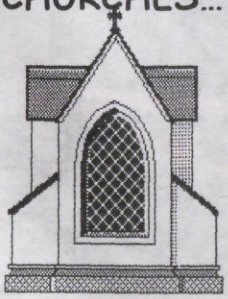

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Commentator:
KYLE ABERCROMBIE

Photos by MIKE KERTON

PROMOTING PEACE

ADVOCATES OF ENLIGHTMENT AND NONVIOLENCE COME TOGETHER IN NEWARK, NJ

The discussion included the Dalai Lama, arriving at The Robert Hotel, in Newark.

The three-day conclave mixed celebrities, community organizers, and people who grappled with a range of problems, from the personal to the global. Nobel laureate, Shirin Ebadi, spoke on the rule of law and the rights of women in Iran, and the author Deepak Chopra spoke about the neuroscience of happiness. The hip-hop impresario Russell Simmons talked about recruiting young men for neighborhood safety patrols, and Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun magazine, led the audience in singing "Down by the Riverside."

Organizers said the contrast evoked by holding such an idealistic event inside the elegant New Jersey Performing Arts Center, while the surrounding city is better known for poverty and crime than for peace, was not lost on them.

"Newark is the perfect place for the event because of its challenging history with violence," said Drew A. Katz, an advertising executive who was one of the chief sponsors.

Speakers included Goldie Hawn, Martin Luther King III, and the economist Jeffrey Sachs

Exhibit display, created by local Newark school students

U.S. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, left, and Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama have a light moment during the Peace Conference.

Black Mirror News, Mike Kerton and hip-hop impresario Russell Simmons, shown at The Robert Treat Hotel.

TWO GEMS OF JOY

To have both daughters graduate two days apart causes a mother's heart to swell with pride and joy. The labor pains, loss of sleep, arguments and tuition cost are well worth the several hours spent to hear your girls' name announced by an institution of higher learning. The degrees and the majors are not as important as witnessing them obtain a major goal in life that was set by themselves.

Siddeeqah & Sakinah, smiling faces of acccomplishments.

My youngest daughter received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University. As an underage student (Siddeeqah graduated from high school at the age of 15), she did it while persevering an illness, two years of neglectful and mean roommates while living in a major city away from the warmth and familiarity of home. Although she had moral and financial help from home, she did the hard part of succeeding on her own because mommy and dad could not do it for her!

My oldest daughter, Sakinah, did it a differently. She completed graduate school at NJIT while working full-time as a chemical engineer for the US Department of Defense. Simultaneously, she did other activities outside of her major of Engineering Management. Sakinah took several French courses, writing and literature courses, participated in an acting troupe, volunteered for community activities and absorbed herself in AKA sorority work. I'm really not certain when she slept.

SURROUNDED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

When you compare graduation to the thousands of other alternatives that are available to young women, I know for certain that they are on the right track. Graduation will hopefully give the ability and confidence to accomplish greater achievements in life.

ELAINE HOFLER

JAZZ ON TAP

WBGO ANNUAL PANEL DISCUSSION – CHAMPIONS IN JAZZ...

included Black Mirror News publisher, Carl Brinson – a.k.a. Tiny Prince. And, distinguished panelists. at the Newark Historical Society.

EXCERPTS FROM PARADE MAGAZINE ARTICLE

'What I Want for You — and Every Child in America'

When, Barack Obama was sworn in as our 44th President. On this historic occasion, PARADE asked the President, who is also a devoted family man, to get personal and tell us what he wants for his children. Here, he shares his letter to them.

Dear Malia and Sasha,

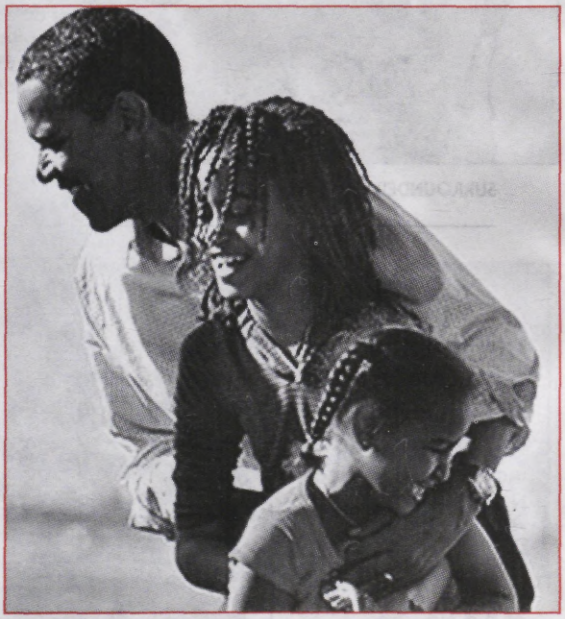
I know that you've both had a lot of fun these last two years on the campaign trail, going to picnics and parades and state fairs, eating all sorts of junk food your mother and I probably shouldn't have let you have. But I also know that it hasn't always been easy for you and Mom, and that as excited as you both are about that new puppy, it doesn't make up for all the time we've been apart. I know how much I've missed these past two years, and today I want to tell you a little more about why I decided to take our family on this journey.

When I was a young man, I thought life was all about me—about how I'd make my way in the world, become successful, and get the things I want. But then the two of you came into my world with all your curiosity and mischief and those smiles that never fail to fill my heart and light up my day. And suddenly, all my big plans for myself didn't seem so important anymore. I soon found that the greatest joy in my life was the joy I saw in yours. And I realized that my own life wouldn't count for much unless I was able to ensure that you had every opportunity for happiness and fulfillment in yours. In the end, girls, that's why I ran for President: because of what I want for you and for every child in this nation.

I want all our children to go to schools worthy of their potential—schools that challenge them, inspire them, and instill in them a sense of wonder about the world around them. I want them to have the chance to go to college—even if their parents aren't rich. And I want them to get good jobs: jobs that pay well and give them benefits like health care, jobs that let them spend time with their own kids and retire with dignity.

I am so proud of both of you. I love you more than you can ever know. And I am grateful every day for your patience, poise, grace, and humor as we prepare to start our new life together in the White House.

Love, Dad



President Barack Obama, daughters, Milia and Sasha

FOR MORE ON THIS ARTICLE, SEE: BARACK OBAMA: A LETTER TO MY DAUGHTERS@PARADE.COM

WILL SMITH is a rapper, Oscar-nominated actor, husband and father of a very talented family

USHER, giving aid and comfort to his son

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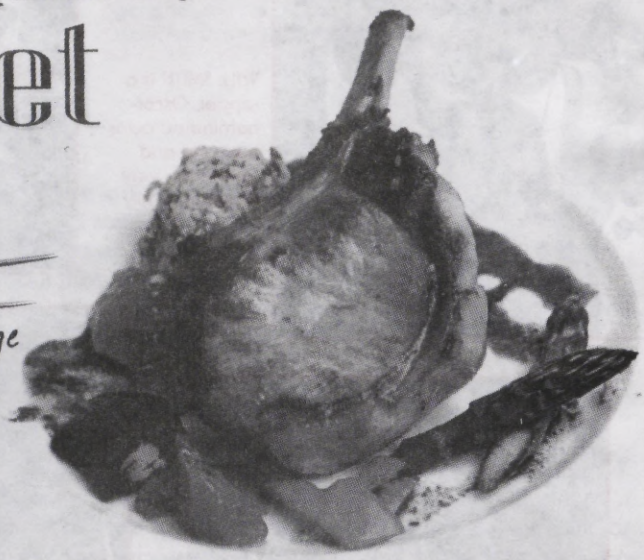

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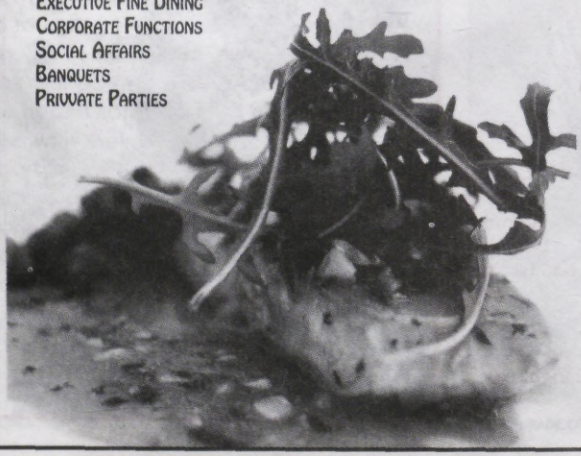

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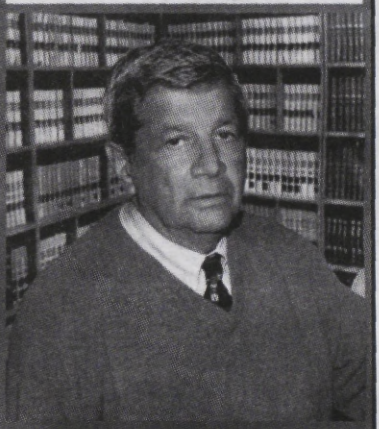

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Wander through a tent full of live native butterflies in this interactive display - perfect for a family adventure!
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Fallen Leaves

GIL SCOTT-HERON

Musician

Gil Scott-Heron, who helped lay the groundwork for rap by fusing minimalistic percussion, political expression and spoken-word poetry on songs such as "*The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*" but saw his brilliance undermined by a years-long drug addiction, has died at age 62.

A friend, Doris C. Nolan, who answered the telephone listed for his Manhattan recording company, said he died at St. Luke's Hospital after becoming sick upon returning from a trip to Europe.

"We're all sort of shattered," she said.

Scott-Heron was known for work that reflected the fury of black America in the post-civil rights era and also spoke to the social and political disparities in the country. His songs often *had incendiary titles* — "*Home is Where the Hatred Is*" or "*Whitey on the Moon*" — and through spoken word and song he tapped the frustration of the masses.

Yet much of his life also was defined by his battle with crack cocaine, which led to time in jail. In a interview with *New York magazine,* he said he had been living with HIV for years, but he still continued to perform and put out music; his last album, which came out this year, was a collaboration with artist Jamie xx, "*We're Still Here,*" a reworking of Scott-Heron's acclaimed "*I'm New Here,*" which was released in 2010.

He also was still smoking crack, as detailed in a *New Yorke*r article last year.

"Ten to fifteen minutes of this, I don't have pain," he said. "I could have had an operation a few years ago, but there was an 8 percent chance of paralysis. I tried the painkillers, but after a couple of weeks I felt like a piece of furniture. It makes you feel like you don't want to do anything. This I can quit anytime I'm ready."

Scott-Heron's influence on rap was such that he sometimes was referred to as the Godfather of Rap, a title he rejected.

PATRICIA WELLS

Patricia was born in Newark, N.J., on Feb. 11, 1944, to the late Dennis Gilbert Freeman and Beverly Joyce Barker. She was an only child and at a very young age showed a true sense of independence. In 1971, Patricia met Walter L. Wells Sr. and they were wed on May 11, 1974. Walter and Patricia have four children, including the late Michelle Denise Fountain, and four grandchildren. Patricia leaves to cherish her memory, her loving and faithful husband, Walter Wells Sr.; two sons, Corey and his wife, Rene Wells of Nutley, N.J., and Walter Jr. and his wife, LaToshia, of Piscataway, N.J.; one daughter, Nicole Wells of Piscataway, N.J.; four grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

BERNARD E. BOOKER, 77

East Orange, NJ

Mr. Booker was the beloved husband of Barbara Booker; devoted father of Denise Loving and Arletta (Larry) King of Virginia; stepfather of Tracy Jackson of New York and Verna Conover; cherished grandfather of 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; dear brother of Henrietta Logan. He is also survived by a host of dedicated nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

JOYCE SMITH-CARTER

Newark, NJ

A community activist and leader, passed away on April 4, 2011. Joyce was the beloved wife of the late Clifton A. Carter; loving mother of Elijah Selph, Melissa J. Evans (Tarence), Rahman (Bonita), Ramases (Tamika) and Anyanwu (Carolyn) Carter; cherished daughter of Hilda Smith and sister of Jerry Allan Jerome and Frances Brown. She is also survived by 15 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, a host of nieces, nephews and extended family.

AFTER HOURS

Sometimes things just happen…

BY TINY PRINCE

EVERYBODY'S TALKIN' ABOUT…

SKIPPER'S PLANE STREET PUB, 304 University Ave. (*across from Essex County College*). Live jazz entain - ment seven days and nights a week, the menu kicks out some of the finest cuisine in the area – you like Tapas? Seafood combos? BBQ Spare Ribs? Arroz Con Pollo? Texas Burgers?… and more. The 'After Five," crowd and schoolteachers are there network'n to the endth. Oh, and Sangria pitchers, are just $8 bucks a pop!… Attention, ministers, bishops, spiritual leaders – you can have any listing or announcement printed in our publication. Just send it to "The Black Mirror News," PO Box 1480, Newark, NJ 07101… Hey, the warm weather's here, and you know what that means – those pesty insects, and bugs will become a worrisome thing. Check out, ARREST A PEST, 973-344-7212, to get things under control (smiles)… The women are all talking about "Precision Cuts Salon," 71 Valley Street, Orange… Boy! The ladies' and men are meeting their needs patronizing "BIG & BEAUTIFUL LINGERIE," place, 977 1/2 Bergen St., Newark (*ad on p. 8*) they now carry Body Magic for men… Don't forget Sunday, June 12th, CORNELL SIMPKINS FASHION RESORT 2011, lots of lovely young ladies – oh yeah! It's a Scholarshp Affair @ the Robert Treat Hotel. 5:00 pm… have you tried the McDonald's Fruit & Maple Oatmeal breaksfast yet? It's hot, new, and delicious… GREEN STREET CAFE' the place to be for FISH FRY FRIDAYS complete dinners from $9.95, plus jazz music starts around 8 PM. Look for their steak night, pizza night and senior specials, this summer

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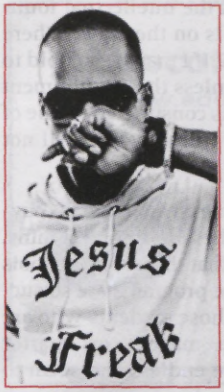

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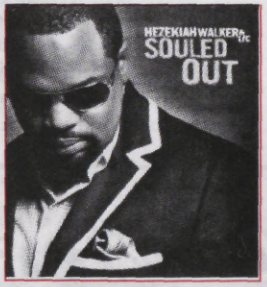
JAMES FORTUNE

Roseland, NJ – Gospel fever returns to the New York Tri-State area on **SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2011 AT THE PRUDENTIAL CENTER** (165 Mulberry Street, Newark, NJ). The auditions are complete and competitors are preparing to share the stage with some of the biggest names in Gospel including superstar Kirk Franklin, Donnie McClurkin, Bishop Hezekiah Walker, James Fortune and Fiya, Bobby Jones, and back by popular demand Bishop TD Jakes.



BISHOP HEZEKIAH WALKER

Produced and directed by Emmy Award winning Producer, A. Curtis Farrow, McDonald's Gospelfest is a talent competition that features many abilities. Rising stars of all colors, ages, cultures and faiths will compete in a variety of categories including Soloists, Youth Choir, Adult Choir, Praise Dance, Step, Singing Groups, Instrumentalists and Gospel Rappers.

DONNIE MCCLURKIN

Tickets can be purchased at the Prudential Center Box Office or through Ticketmaster by calling 800.745.3000, or at www.ticketmaster.com. For further information, please call the McDonald's Gospelfest Hotline at 877.771.7772.

EDUCATORS 4 KIDS

Everyone, and I do mean everyone, is entitled to be wrong, make mistakes, learn from those mistakes and have an opportunity to right the ship. I doubt that anyone would disagree with that premise. But when is it no longer a simple act of human error? When do these mistakes, some of which are repeated over and over again, become a travesty of human neglect?

Since the eighties there has been one educational concept after another being purchased and utilized in the Newark Public Schools. One more paradigm and educational model after another that promises to be the answer to our children's low testing scores. Unfortunately these models all have the same results, little or no improvement in test scores. Year after year these so called wonder programs are falling short and so are our children's chances of moving up the educational ladder as these scores are the benchmark in measuring our young people.

Even with these sobering statistics, our educational leadership continues to throw more money into different educational programs. As a result, our inner city children continue to be used as progressive experiments with the same sad results, a never ending platform of failure.

The latest answer to our educational woes is the addition of several magnet schools to an already troubled system. We are being told that this concept was well thought out and we, the parents and citizens of this community should not fret or be concerned. The new-aged thinkers assure us they have found the intellectual fountain of youth and success is on the way. Where have we heard that before? If I may be so bold to continue to suggest that unless the environment of the educational system is constructed to one of learning, all of the money in the world will not be enough.

Our leaders need to come clean to the taxpayers who foot the bill for these failing programs. What proof do they have that these new schools will be successful? If these programs are so successful, what happens to those students who are not accepted into these magnet or charter schools? The questions are endless and seem to never be answered. Our leaders owe us answers and as a community we must demand to see an improvement in our schools.

Educators for Kids has been and will continue to do our part. We will continue to foster tutoring programs for our children and for their parents as we have been doing with limited funds for ten years. Our goal is to have a tutoring program in every ward in Newark. Only with the collective strength of those in Newark who have the financial resources and the desire to help our children can our dream be realized. Together we can and will make a difference!

In our commitment to children, Educators for Kids welcomes all parents and children to this year's summer tutoring programs. Please continue to read *The Black Mirror* for details about our tutoring locations and the starting times.

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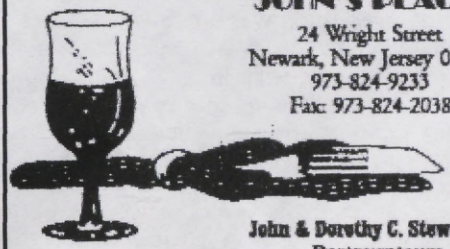

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By JOE THOMAS

Carrie Jackson

"FROM WHERE GREAT MUSICAL TIDINGS FLOW"

"Now hear this!" "Now hear this!"

You hear this term mostly in Naval operations. How does that relate to a vocalist?

Carrie sings. You'll be completely engulfed (joyfully) by her superb vocalism. I've had the honor of performing with her. Let me tell you to the highest plain each and every time,

I've listened to her and have simply marveled. Her C.D. is most impressive. You see, in the studio you may "do" and "redo" a track until you get it as you/your producer would like. That's fine, Carrie gets it right *all* the time.

I marvel upon reading about where she is appearing/will be appearing. She's all over the place, all the time. I believe if she could divide herself, all the places would be filled and they'd all get a stellar audience. Check this out. Her "all" is just plain wonderful. Her projection is to "make you feel happy," 'make you feel good'. Make you shed your discomforts" as she knows you should. That's what happens when Carrie sings,

Your soul is enriched. Your mind's put at ease. She sings and your soul is "captured," your heart is pleased.

The two expressions rhyme but it's mere happenstance.

Carrie, to you I give two "thumbs up." Please receive my musical praise. You are most worthy of it.

TILL THE NEXT TIME. LUV – YOU – MUCH.
KEEP JAZZ ALIVE.

Joe Thomas

THE SHADOW ...

Fathers & their Children

LETTERS BETWEEN SON AND DAD

Dear Dad,
$chool i$ really great. I am making lot$ of friend$ and $tudying very hard. With all my $tuff, I $imply can't think of anything I need, $o if you would like, you can ju$t $end me a card, a$ I would love to hear from you.

Love, Your $on

The Reply:
Dear Son,
I kNOw that astroNOmy, ecoNOmics, and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOr student busy. Do NOt forget that the pursuit of kNOwledge is a NOble task, and you can never study eNOugh.

Dad

PENNY TRICK

After tucking their three-year-old child Sammy in for bed one night, his parents heard sobbing coming from his room.

Rushing back in, they found him crying hysterically. He managed to tell them that he had swallowed a penny and he was sure he was going to die. No amount of talking was helping.

His father, in an attempt to calm him down, palmed a penny from his pocket and pretended to pull it from Sammy's ear. Sammy was delighted.

In a flash, he snatched it from his father's hand, swallowed, and then cheerfully demanded, "Do it again, Dad!"

SETTING THE TABLE

Little Susan was mother's helper. She helped set the table when guests were due for dinner. Presently everything was on, the guest came in, and everyone sat down. Then Mother noticed something was missing.

"Susan," she said, "You didn't put a knife and fork at Mr. Smith's place."

"I thought he wouldn't need them," explained Susan.

"Daddy says he always eats like a horse!"

Gary A Taffet

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